Licensing for Robots

As part of building a Digital Workforce, consideration must be given to the licensing implications for each of the tasks that the Runtime Resource (robot) performs. This document provides guidance and examples of the types of implications that may be relevant. Typically Blue Prism Runtime Resources interact with a range of third-party systems and therefore organizations must ensure that they are appropriately licensed for each of the applications that they use.

Robot Licensing

Core Licensing

A Runtime Resource is commonly deployed to a dedicated virtual machine and therefore, in addition to being appropriately covered by a Blue Prism license there is a basic level of licensing that must be considered:

- Operating System (Windows) on which the Runtime Resource is installed
- Core platform that the Runtime Resource may interact (E.g. Active Directory) with or locally installed agents (Monitoring tools, Anti-virus etc).

The robot will also need to be licensed for the purposes of having access (albeit often indirect) to the Blue Prism Microsoft SQL Server databases. The detail of how this licensing may take shape is explored later in the document.

Application Specific Licensing

The automated processes designed using Blue Prism will commonly define a number of applications that will be used and it is therefore important that the Runtime Resources on which the processes will execute are appropriately licensed to access these applications. A non-exhaustive list of some example applications include:

- Adobe Acrobat
- Mainframe
- Microsoft Exchange
- Microsoft Office
- CRM / ERP / BPMS
- SAP
- Siebel

The licensing options for each of the vendors must be understood in the context of how they apply to virtual users and devices on which automated process execution occurs to ensure that appropriate licensing is in place.

Virtual devices and automated users are becoming common place and a number of vendors recognise these as being equivalent to their physical counterparts however it is recommend that clear recommendations for licensing from the respective vendors is sought.

Automated Use of Systems

Some vendors may include license agreement clauses which prevent their applications from being used as part of automated processes. Such clauses may need to be addressed to ensure that the vendor accepts that the automated use of the system is more akin to a user manually interacting with the system rather than an automated process. Many of these clauses derive from the vendors seeking to reduce the risk of high usage resulting in a Denial of Service (DoS) however the facility within Blue Prism to limit the speed of processing should help to mitigate this particular concern.

Database Licensing

In some cases multiple licenses are required to fully allow a user/device to work with an application. An example of this is below:

Consider a typical third-party system such as Microsoft Dynamics CRM which is licensed on a Server and Client Access License (CAL) model. If an organisation has 450 users, then they require a minimum of one Server License and a minimum of 450 CALs. What is not clear from this example is that the 450 users also require licenses for the underlying database provider: Microsoft SQL Server

The above example indicates that whilst the client user/device does not interact directly with SQL Server they still require a license for the underlying database solution.

A Blue Prism Runtime Resource will require database licenses to allow them to do the following:

- Interact indirectly with the Blue Prism database.
- Interact with any database platform which requires a client access license – particularly where database licensing is not included as part of the licensing framework for the relevant third-party application.

For more information see the licensing information provided by the database provider(s) who form part of the solution. For Microsoft SQL Server 2012 there is a document published by Microsoft: *Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Licensing Guide*.